REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 10, 2006. By the present amendment, claim 64 has been amended to make the correction suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and removal of the objection to claim 64 is respectfully requested.

Also by the present Amendment, independent claim 58 has been amended to clarify the invention.

Reconsideration and allowance of the amended independent claim 58 and its dependent claims 59-64 is respectfully requested. By the present Amendment, the claim language has been amended to clarify the structure and connection defined in the last paragraph of the claim. In particular, the last paragraph of claim 58 is intended to cover an arrangement such as shown, for example, in Fig. 5B. As can be seen in Fig. 5B, the arrangement is provided for a sub-pixel in which an auxiliary electrode is disposed in a part of one of the sub-pixels and is formed on the same level as the lower electrode. In addition, the auxiliary electrode is connected to the current supply line $V_{comoled}$ through a contact hole formed in the interlayer insulating film.

Referring to the amended claim 58, the original claim language clearly defined the auxiliary electrode being formed on the same level as the first electrode (i.e., corresponding to the "lower electrode" in Fig. 5B by virtue of the recitation of the structure of the organic electro-luminescent substrate set forth in the first paragraph of claim 58. The original claim 58 also defined that the auxiliary

electrode is "connected to a current supply line within a drive layer via an inter-layer insulating layer." This also defines the connection shown in Fig. 5B of the auxiliary electrode being connected to the current supply line $V_{comoled}$ "via an inter-layer insulating film." However, to more clearly emphasize this structure, as well as the distinctions over the cited prior art, applicants proposed herewith to amend the last line concerning the connection of the auxiliary electrode to the current supply line within the drive layer by defining:

> "wherein the auxiliary electrode is formed on a same level as the first electrode and is connected to a current supply line within a drive layer via a contact hole formed in an inter-layer insulating layer formed over the drive layer."

With regard to the cited U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0004190 to Nishi relied on in rejecting the claims under 35 USC §102(e) in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claim language serves to even further distinguish the claimed structure over Nishi. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that a careful study of Nishi clearly shows that the reference fails to teach either the feature of the auxiliary electrode being formed on the same level as the first electrode or the feature that the auxiliary electrode is connected to a current supply line within a drive layer via a contact hole formed in an inter-layer insulating layer formed over the drive layer.

Referring, for example, to Fig. 1 of Nishi, the auxiliary electrode is identified with the numeral 109, the anode electrode with the numeral 108, the EL layer with the numeral 107, the inner layer insulator with the numeral 106 and the pixel electrode with the numeral 105. In order to meet the limitation of claim 58 that the auxiliary electrode is formed on the same level as the first electrode, it would be

necessary for the auxiliary electrode 109 to be formed on the same level as the lower pixel electrode 105 in Nishi. Clearly this is not the case since the auxiliary electrode 109 is formed at a much higher level than the pixel electrode 105. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion at all in Nishi that the auxiliary electrode 109 is connected to an electric current supply line, let alone being connected to such a current supply line via a contact hole formed in an inter-layer insulating film formed over the drive layer in which the current supply line is formed (as required by claim 58).

Similarly, the embodiment shown in Fig. 11A and 11B of Nishi also fails to meet the above-noted features of claim 58. In Fig. 11B, the auxiliary electrode would correspond to the metal film 1007, while the first electrode would correspond to the anode electrode 1008. Again, clearly these electrodes are on different levels (not the same level as required by claim 58). In addition, Fig. 11B does not show any connection between the auxiliary electrode 1007 and the current supply line 1009. Instead, the anode electrode 1008 is connected to the current supply line 1009. Therefore, this embodiment shown in Fig. 11B of Nishi also fails to teach or suggest the above-noted claim features found in the last paragraph of claim 58. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the amended claim 58, and its dependent claims 59-64, over Nishi is respectfully requested.

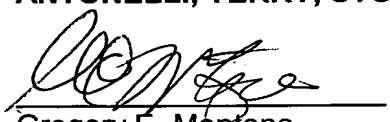
Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. With regard to this, it is noted at the outset of the Remarks, the original claim language already defines the features of the auxiliary electrode being formed on the same level as the first electrode and the connection of the auxiliary electrode to the current supply line within a drive layer via an inter-

layer insulating layer." As such, the present amendment merely clarifies the recited connection between the auxiliary electrode and the current supply line. Inasmuch as the features of the auxiliary electrode being formed on the same level as the first electrode and the connection to the current supply line have already been considered and searched by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the entry of the present Amendment to further clarify this connection does not raise any new issues, but simply clarifies an already existing issue. For the reasons set forth above, it is urged that this clarification should serve to place the application clearly in condition for allowance (particularly since the reference to Nishi fails to teach or suggest either of the above-noted limitations regarding the auxiliary electrode being formed on the same level as the first electrode and the connection of the auxiliary electrode to the current supply line via a contact hole formed in the inner-layer insulating layer). Beyond this, even if the Examiner still regards the reference as meeting the terms of the claim language, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested for purposes of simplifying the issues on Appeal since, clearly, the amended claim language further clarifies the recited. Therefore, entry of this amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, either for placing the application in condition for allowance or, at a minimum, simplifying the issues for appeal, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.41280X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

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